

MEMOIRS
OF THE
NEW INSECT:
Interspersed with
SKETCHES
OF OTHER
SINGULAR CHARACTERS.

These species of Insects of late are become exceeding numerous (like the green louse, when first brought to Amsterdam, from a single one, has proceeded such swarms as to be of alarming consequence); their colours are various, and cast their coats, like the camelion, sometimes to ten different shades in a day. It is difficult to distinguish the male of these reptiles from the female, as the voice and manner approaches nearer to the feminine than masculine. Liquor they are peculiarly fond of, and when in a state of inebriation are so troublesome, that great care should be taken lest they sting you. They are in-being all the year round; chiefly to be found in the boxes of the theatres, public gardens, concerts, &c. You may hear them long before they come to view, by a shrill squeak of demme, gad xounds, blood and thunder, d—n'd boar, &c. The celebrated Linnaeus attributes their generation to the putrified essence of lavender, bergamot, marchalle powder, violets, pomatums, snuff, grease, &c. &c. Although their first appearance has a terrible aspect, they are as harmless and inoffensive, when sober, as new born babes.

A buckling of this species differs from a buck, much in the same manner as a hornet from a wasp.

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P R E F A C E.

THE two grand ends of reading, being amusement and instruction, no apology it is presumed need be made for introducing to the world a display of characters, singular either for laudable or reprehensible qualities, as such display must naturally tend to excite a regard for the former, and disinclination to the latter, and thereby confirm in the mind rational and manly habits.

The vices and follies of mankind are justly the butt of satire and ridicule; which have their different effects upon
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different dispositions ; therefore, while the lash of the former is applied to some, the point of the latter must be directed to others. In a word, some persons are to be scourged, and others laughed out of their absurdities. Few men are without their singularities, which generally call for reprehension rather than commendation : nay, so blind are we, universally, to our defects, as frequently to censure, and even execrate, in others, certain vices and follies which are notorious in our own conduct and deportment throughout life.

When a character, highly ridiculous and absurd, is pourtrayed by the pencil of the artist, and held up to public view, under epithets either opprobrious or sarcastic, curiosity is excited to know particulars respecting the same, such as birth, parentage, education, incidents of life, &c. To gratify this curiosity, recourse must be had to the pen, to finish that which has been sketched by the pencil ; for by such means the writer will authenticate the delineation of

of the artist; in proving from fact, that the creature is identically what it appears to be from design.

To the Amateurs of Caricature, and the Votaries of the *Ton*, the INSECT can be no stranger. He long figured amongst the Beaux and the Belles, before he appeared in print; nay, such was his celebrity in the gayer circles, that his enchanting figure no sooner presented itself, than it was purchased with the greatest avidity, and deposited in their cabinets of curiosities.

How far the following Memoirs may be deserving a place in their libraries, must be left to themselves to determine on perusal. It may be said at least in their commendation, that they are genuine and authentic, taken from the Life, without exaggeration or extenuation, and presented to the public in the garb of plain truth, without the least semblance of fallacy.

There is no subject so trifling as not to afford some degree of entertainment

or improvement. The most contemptible characters should teach us to shun the vices and follies which have aspersed them. When we laugh or sneer at others, we should beware that we give not others cause to laugh or sneer at us.

When we read the effects of launching into dissipation, we should form resolutions of avoiding those rocks and quicksands that have proved fatal to many.

If upon the whole, the perusal of these Memoirs tends but to the acquisition of one laudable, or the rejection of one censurable, quality, even in an individual, it cannot be said they have been collated in vain.



ME-

MEMOIRS, &c.

THE father of our hero, having acquired a very large fortune in the annuities, betook himself to a retired life ; and his greatest concern seemed to be the education of his son. For a short time his views were promising, as the youth bid fair to make a tolerable proficiency in literature ; and he intended him for the profession of the law. But his mind was soon diverted from the more important pursuits, by a predilection he entertained for the exterior accomplishments of fencing, dancing, and music ; in which he made so rapid a progress, as to attain to such

a degree of eminence, as commanded the admiration and applause of all who were witnesses to the feats of so juvenile a performer.

His vanity thus naturally excited, books were discarded; he could find no charms in grammar, when set in competition with the grace of an attitude, or the rapture of an air. *Sol fa* resounded incessantly in his ears; and levity predominated to the total exclusion of common sense and all its appendages.

Such a turn could not fail of incurring the displeasure of his father, who had designed him to fill a respectable station in life; and through an affluent fortune, had the power of procuring him advancement. He had previously forfeited the favour of his mother, a Jewess, by embracing the Christian religion at the injunction of his father, who had before abjured Judaism, and conformed to the established church.

Thus circumstanced, exposed to the chastisement of his father, for neglect of his studies, and the upbraiding of his mother for renouncing the religion of his fore-fathers, home became irksome to him; and at so early a period as the age of fourteen years, to sooth the rigour and severity attendant on parental disaffection, he found himself disposed to launch into the very extreme of folly and dissipation.

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To this the austerity of his mother more particularly conduced. She treated him in no instance as a son, made no allowance for the foibles of youth, barred the doors against him at a very early hour, and thus furnishing him with a plea for sleeping out, hurried him into association with eccentric and dissipated characters.

His favourite pursuit was music, for which he became celebrated as the paragon of his years, and by that means his vanity was so inflated, that he rejected, with disdain, many professions proposed to him by his father; determined to try his fortune abroad.

But before he could accomplish this design, he prevailed with that gentleman to offer a liberal yearly stipend to Mr. S——, an Italian musician of eminence, to accommodate him with board and lodging in his house, where he would have an opportunity of gaining a knowledge of the Italian language; as well as improving himself in his darling science.

His situation with Mr. S——, opened a wide field for intrigue. It introduced him not only to the Opera on the nights of public performance, but at rehearsals, and other private occasions: and as Mr. S—— treated him like a son, he was shewn the greatest respect by the whole magic circle within those enchanting domains.

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Here, as well as at the house of Mr. S——, whose wife was visited by the female singers and figurants, our Adonis had frequent opportunities of dalliance ; and as ladies of their country and profession are not, in general, vestals, he soon made considerable progress in the art of gallantry. Who could behold such an assemblage of charms and be silent ? Who can resist the power of woman *that seduces all mankind ?*

In this situation our hero continued two years, revelling in all the excesses of libertinism that depraved fancy can suggest, or the most unreserved compliance that prostitution can yield.

What principles must a youth imbibe in such a nursery of vice and dissipation ? Is it not reasonable to suppose he must become abandoned in the extreme ? Determined to wage war with human nature, and common sense, glory in his shame, and, in a word, be the veriest slave to the most ignoble passions ?

Such was the case with our disciple in the school of folly. It taught him to admire nothing but his own sweet person, which he imagined had attractions for females of the most exalted character, or exquisite beauty : it emboldened him to make advances in defiance of every principle of honour and gratitude ;
and

and at length occasioned his dismissal from the family of Mr. S——, on the chastity of whose wife he had made a most disingenuous attempt, after the seduction of his servant maid.

He then determined to prosecute the plan he had formed of trying his fortune abroad, the success of which he thought would be considerably facilitated by the great improvement he had made in the profession he had entered upon from an irresistible impulse.

Fraught with the most sanguine prepossessions in his own favour, from a consciousness of his accomplishments, he embarked for Holland, and took up his residence at the Hague for nine months. The attention of the Hollanders is chiefly engrossed by the concerns of commerce, and the accumulation of wealth; so that the arts and sciences cannot be greatly esteemed, or liberally patronized by people of such a disposition.

However, as the Hague is the residence of the court, foreign ambassadors, and persons of fashion in general, it was the only spot from which an adventurer could reasonably hope for support. Nor was he totally disappointed. His performances acquired universal applause; and such was his professional reputation, that it obtained him the countenance of the princess
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of Orange, who admitted him to her palace, and would have deigned him the honour of being her musical instructor, had not an instance of unparalleled audacity precluded him from all title to favourable regard, and brought on him that disgrace and contempt he most justly deserved.

Elated beyond measure by a very respectable reception, and confirmed in the exalted opinion he had before entertained of his own rare accomplishments; so unbounded was his vanity, so excessive his arrogance, and so undaunted his impudence; that, impelled by a maniacal infatuation, he took occasion to snatch a kiss of the hand of the princess, who, fired at the indignity, applied it with all the vehemence of female resentment to his brazen front; banished him from her presence, and enjoined his expulsion; so that he made his exit from Holland, with as much odium as he had entered it with éclat; as universally despised as he had been respected.

From Holland he proceeded to France, in order to visit Paris, the center of gaiety, and resort of the Ton from all quarters; but as an individual must be lost amongst a groupe of petits maitres and foplings of every rank and degree, our hero, though inferior to few in the qualities which mark those characters, could not there figure away to such advantage, or
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render himself so conspicuously ridiculous, as in places where such things do not vegetate in abundance. There is no doubt, however, but he profited by the examples before him; and that if there were any new follies prevailing, he took care to adopt and display them as soon as opportunity offered.

To Italy he next repaired, as a spot of all others most favourable to his darling pursuits: but in this region of harmony, with him all within was gloomy, dull, and discordant. The iron hand of dire necessity pressed him hard; he had the mortification of being obliged to seclude himself from the gayer circles, and to deny himself those enjoyments which constituted the very essence of his existence. At length his father, commiserating his forlorn condition, bountifully relieved, and thereby enabled him to return to England, after an absence of two years.

His constitution being much impaired by the excesses into which he had given, having been a constant devotee at the shrines of Venus and Bacchus, for a considerable time; the waters of Margate were recommended as salutary in his amaciated state; and he accordingly went thither to try their effect.

At this time many persons of fashion were there; so that our hero could not be at a loss
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for society in some respects agreeable to his disposition. His musical talents introduced him to every party of distinction; and though he was known to be a censurable character, that consideration was waved by the social and candid, as he rendered himself a pleasant, diverting companion. He mixed with choice spirits, bucks and bloods, honourable, naval, military, &c. With these he participated in many a frolic, and sometimes knocked up a dust, which occasioned a knock down.

Private Theatricals coming into vogue, through a kind of dramatic influenza, which seemed to have diffused itself throughout the beau mode, a bett was made between a military gentleman (Captain W——h) and our hero; by which one of the parties stood engaged to dance a hornpipe, and the other to perform the character of fribble in *Miss in her Teens*, on penalty of a stipulated forfeiture. The Captain declined the engagement, and of course subjected himself to the penalty; but our hero applied himself to the study of the character he had undertaken to perform; and the advertisement of the appearance of a young gentleman for the first time in public, [a young gentleman well known throughout the polite circles] brought a brilliant and crouded audience.

According to the general acknowledgment of theatrical connoisseurs, never was character

sustained with more propriety. The young gentleman discovered great fancy in dress, and much judgment in execution. He was rather the thing itself than the thing represented; and, as it was said of Tom Weston, of droll memory, that he was the greatest Scrub in the world (alluding to real as well as assumed character) so it may be said of our hero, that he was the very Fribble of Fribbles.

His extravagancies at this place soon reduced his finances to so low an ebb, that he began to think a little seriously, and entertain a notion of entering upon some professions in order to preclude those difficulties which he had from woeful experience known to be the concomitants of dire necessity. But every attention to the dictates of reason was at this critical juncture diverted by an occurrence which enabled him to resume his course of unbounded dissipation, and figure away in a superior style. The death of an uncle put him into immediate possession of 5000 l. which in addition to a liberal stipend from his father, raised a very considerable supply.

The report of this acquisition was soon spread throughout the circle of gaiety, and as, according to custom upon such occasions, it was augmented to ten thousand, could not fail of attracting the notice of those worthies who compose the venerable committee of ways
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and means, or that respectable body of men who live by their wits.

Amongst others of this character, Captain A——, an Hibernian, from motives well known to all who resort the watering places, had long wished to be in habits of intimacy with our hero, as a tool that might easily be rendered subservient to his designs: but he was now more particularly desirous of an attachment, as the great augmentation of his finances was a temptation to play off the slight of hand artillery, which the Captain with all his virtuous resolutions could not possibly withstand.

No device to accomplish this end was left untried: he flattered the vanity of our novice, plied him with the most obsequious assiduities, pronounced him the very paragon of taste, regaled him upon divers invitations in a most superb style, and by every effort of word and action that could be exerted by the most wily cajoler, at length worked himself into his confidence.

Having carried the point thus far, as a prelude to the grand attack, cards and dice were introduced. Our hero, though he had given into most of the reigning vices and follies of the age, never discovered a propensity for gambling. He had the virtue to attend to the cautions

tions which had been given him by prudent friends on that subject, previous to his setting out upon his travels, and had hitherto avoided the fascinating lure. Indeed his time and attention were chiefly engrossed by his engagements with the fair, who occupied his thoughts, and were the grand directory by which he moved and acted.

Thus disposed, it was a work of some time to mould him to the purpose; however, as there are certain moments when men as well as women are off their guard, a convenient opportunity was seized for throwing out a temptation, which had the desired effect; our novice caught the bait, was wheedled into play, and pidgeoned out of a very considerable sum. Such however were his indolence and supineness of temper and habit, that he regretted not the loss he sustained by his intimacy with the worthy Captain; nor repined at any folly whilst he possessed the means of procuring a daily supply.

As characters remarkable for eccentricity, incoherence, and absurdity, frequently incur groundless imputations, and are liable to unjustifiable aspersions; it cannot be supposed that the *Nonpareil* before us could escape obloquy. An advertisement in form of a letter from Margate was fabricated by a wicked wit, and inserted in the London papers, purporting

that he had undergone the chastisement of the cane, at a place of public resort, for liberties taken with the name of a certain lady.

But as it is well known no such event ever took place, it is deemed sufficient to let the malevolence rest with the author, without entering upon a refutation of what is evidently founded upon falsehood. The circumstance however was so displeasing to his father, that he insisted by letter on his immediate return to town, which was by no means ineligible to our hero, who began to find himself much embarrassed from the exhausted state of his finances, and the numerous debts he had contracted.

He therefore complied with the injunction without hesitation, and availed himself of an offer made him by a companion of the class of *Bons Vivants*, of a seat in his carriage, which at this juncture was highly acceptable, as he had not wherewithal to pay for his conveyance; such are the effects of folly in the extreme.

Mr. A——, a limb of the law, to whom our hero was indebted for this favour, is a character well known amongst the *Beaux Garconnes* and fashionable impures of the day. We shall therefore only cite the old adage, “a man is known by his company,” as apology

logy for introducing in the course of these Memoirs, such traits of characters, both male and female, as are interwoven with that of the hero of them, and consequently tend to hold him up to the public in a more conspicuous point of view.

With respect to Mr. A —, it must be confessed he has his attractions, and possesses allurements not a little captivating. Two unfortunate fair ones have cause to lament their connections with him. These are Betsy C —, and Lucy J —, the latter of whom was so attached, that she lavished on him the whole produce of her personal charms. Lucy possessed a vivid countenance, an attractive eye, and a winning deportment, qualifications which if duly employed, might have rendered her situation equal to that of any cotemporary Fille de joy, and probably secured her a comfortable provision against the day of need, when advancing time shall change the hue of the countenance, and the most fascinating charms gradually die away, till it may be said the *wreck is only left behind*.

But such was her infatuation, that to this favourite she sacrificed her person and her time. She supplied him with every thing that could conduce to the pride or the luxury of life. An elegant carriage, sumptuous apparel, and costly viands, were furnished for his accom-

modation ; and he figured away in a superior style, so long as the deluded girl could procure the means of administering to his extravagances ; but no sooner was she deprived of them, than desertion ensued, aggravated by the most piercing taunts, and, as report whispers, the most unheard of cruelties. Indeed inhumanity as well as ingratitude to his cast off fair ones seem to be the leading traits of this gentleman's character.

As similarity of disposition and conduct is the general foundation of intimacy, no wonder that minds so congenial as those of the INSECT and this Hero of the Quill, should form a kind of union, or that the former should accept of the latter's offer of conveyance, from motive of choice as well as necessity, especially as there were females to be of the party. Women and wine being the main pursuit of the two eccentric characters, who perfectly agree in a regular course of irregularity, the intimacy between them still subsists.

On the return of our hero to town, emaciated by excessive debauchery, and encumbered with accumulated debts contracted at Margate, such were the lenity, indulgence and liberality of his father, that he not only discharged his debts, but consented to his going to Bath, to try the effect of the waters, and supplied him with the

the means of repairing to that place of fashionable resort. Previous to this, indeed, he had promised, according to injunction, never more to appear on a public stage.

At Bath, he had very little opportunity of gratifying his propensity, either for gallantry or ostentation, through a circumscribed state of finances on the one hand, and prevailing indisposition on the other, which confined his scene of action within the narrow sphere of a private circle.

The season for masquerades arriving at this time, and his situation becoming extremely irksome from being deprived of the means of following his favourite pursuits, Bath had no charms for our hero, who therefore quitted it, and returned to London, to participate in an amusement, of all others, most pleasing to dissipated minds.

The characters he assumed in masquerade, contributed much to the hilarity of the diverting scene, and were acknowledged to have been supported with great humour, and some sparklings of real wit. His French hair dresser and dancing master, were stamped by the cognoscenti, as models of perfection; and many other characters, though inferior to those, met with general approbation. Hitherto, as his
design

design was innocent, and his aim only to hold up *outrés* fashions to public ridicule, and raise a harmless laugh, he must be allowed to pass without censure.

But the character he next assumed, with the label of his device, exposed him not only to censure but execration. The character alluded to was the "Brighton Taylor." The label affixed to his cap, contained the following inscription, "*Ladies closely fitted, and the best materials found.*" If indecency on private occasions argues a want of sense, and a corrupt inclination, with what infamy ought that character to be branded, that in defiance of shame, of honour, of virtue, shall glory in exposing a total depravity of morals, and exhibiting devices to shock modesty and enflame libidinisism? Surely that man, who not satisfied with the private indulgence of his inordinate passions, stands forth as a public abettor of vice and ignominy, must be a monster in nature, and should, till, upon retrospection, he evinces conviction by reformation, be excluded society. It is hoped this hint will have its due effect.

Amongst the circle of the INSECT's intimate associates was a lieutenant W——s, of the militia, who was esteemed a jovial companion, though to appearance he was rather of the effeminate cast, and had much of the *petit maitre* about him. Though as singular in his garb

garb as the INSECT, he was not so degagée in his mien and deportment ; the one being the travelled fop, the other the domestic Master Jacky. The military beau however, possessed enchanting vocal powers, an excellent talent for mimicry, and was completely stage struck. The frequent proofs he gave of this invincible propensity, induced the INSECT to boast of the universal applause his theatrical efforts had met with at Margate. This inspired the hero in cockade with all the furor of desire, to display his talents in a similar line, and upon a similar occasion. To Margate therefore he determined to repair, as the grand scene of action, to eternize his fame, and acquire as much renown upon the stage as he had done in the field, where his evolutions and revolutions, his marching, and his haltings, with his adroitness in the several martial manœuvres, had placed him at the head of the profession of arms. Our hero, prompted by inclination as well as expectation of much frolic and fun, was easily prevailed on, as the summer was advancing, to accompany the Captain to Margate, on this very grand and important expedition.

The intended excursion however was postponed for a time, the Captain having a point to carry, which in the reduced state of his finances he found highly necessary, as the only probable means of obtaining a supply, in order

der to préserve appearances, and figure away in his accustomed style.

He had cast his eye on the person or rather on the fortune of Miss H —, a young lady possessed of the most attractive charms, but unhappily destitute of the grand object of his pursuit. Indeed their views were exactly similar, as the gallant's aim was to aggrandize himself by fallacious appearances, so was that of Miss H —, who was supported in all the forms of exterior pomp and parade by her mother, with whom she lodged at Knightsbridge. The old lady by the due appropriation of a narrow income, acquired a degree of respectability, and Miss was trumpeted forth as a fortune. To aid the design, she had acquired by the instruction of her mother, all the art and finesse, that was requisite to countenance the report, and pass it current with the world.

Strange as it may appear, those who are most adroit in throwing a veil over the understandings of others, are generally most easily caught in the trap laid to ensnare themselves; though they are conscious of assuming a mask, and that they pass in semblance for what they are not in reality, they cannot discern the guise of others, but are duped by the very arts they practise, from the same motives.

The Captain passed for an officer of fortune,
and

and his dress and address though singular, con-
 ducted to recommend him to the circle of the
 Ton : such were the effects of his finesse upon
 the mother and daughter, that they gave him
 an invitation to tea, and the first visit paved
 the way for frequent and familiar interviews.
 The hero having exhausted all the stock of cash
 he could raise in maintaining an appearance
 suitable to his own report, was reduced to the
 necessity of applying to his associate, the
 INSECT, for a recruit. The hero of these
 Memoirs most cordially acquiesced, and not
 only assisted him in the prosecution of his
 plan, by pecuniary loans, but to further it in
 a striking point of view, accommodated him
 with the use of his horses, and the attendance
 of his groom. The Captain, indeed, pro-
 mised a liberal gratuity for these very essen-
 tial services, the moment he was in possession
 of the fair creature's fortune, which he had
 realized in idea as very considerable ; so that
 the motive of his companion was not wholly
 disinterested.

Fraught with most sanguine expectations
 of success, not merely from the repaired
 state of his finances, but the additional glare
 of his appearance ; the Captain paid Miss a
 morning visit on horseback. The frippery of
 the INSECT's livery, the elegance of the
 adventurer's riding dress, and the figure *tout*
ensemble, seemed to captivate the young Lady.

Emboldened,

Emboldened, as may be supposed, by a glance, a smile, or some other overture, which passion might suggest ; the hero availed himself of the happy moment in the absence of her mother ; made an attempt on the virtue of the fair one, who, instead of repulsing him with indignation, yielded to his importunate solicitations with a sigh, a sob, and a swoon.

Thus far he ran before the wind, the victory he obtained seemed to ensure him success. Possessed of the person, he considered himself as possessed eventually of the fortune of the Lady, and consoled himself in a fair prospect of speedily accomplishing his utmost wishes.

Their dalliance at length being interrupted by the arrival of the mother ; an engagement of a most solemn nature was entered into ; an engagement on which depended their future happiness or misery. Anxious for the enjoyment of the fair one's fortune, to effect which a nuptial union was indispensably necessary, the means of bringing it about, occupied the thoughts of the military adventurer day and night. Having at length resolved upon the design of elopement, and deeming the assistance of the INSECT of great utility in its furtherance, he communicated it, and found in him as powerful an auxiliary upon the present, as he had done upon a former occasion.

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To engage the attention of the mother, and thereby afford the daughter an opportunity for eloping, it was proposed that the INSECT should accompany the ladies and the Captain in a walk to Chelsea gardens. The necessary preparations had been made for carrying the plan, the associates had jointly concerted, into execution. A post chaise was waiting at hand to convey the lovers to Highgate, where a lodging had been taken and prepared for their reception.

The Captain and young lady taking a devious path in the garden, in order, as was natural to suppose, to enjoy their amorous converse; his associate having an opportunity of tampering with the mother, played his part on this occasion with consummate address, and carried the arts of hypocrisy and duplicity to the extreme. Affecting a sincere regard for the interest and happiness of the mother and the daughter, he cautioned Mrs. H——, in the most solemn manner, against admitting the visits of the Captain, as they would prove of most injurious tendency to the character of the young Lady. He insinuated that by permitting him to take any liberty, or hold any confidential correspondence with her, she might be accessory to the leading her into temptation, rather than guarding her against it.

The wily manner in which the INSECT
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executed his department in the plan, and the finesse he used upon the occasion, had every desirable effect. Such apparent friendship and candour conciliated the esteem, and ensured him the confidence of the old Lady, who, not suspecting the integrity of his principles, acknowledged the liberality and prudence of his cautions, and opened her mind to him without reserve. She confessed, that esteeming the Captain, a man of fortune, and persuaded from observation, that he possessed every accomplishment requisite to form the man of fashion; she had been by no means averse to his addresses to her daughter, but rather disposed to encourage them. She observed that she was inclined to entertain a favourable opinion of Captain W——, as the friend and companion of the son of Mr. F——, a gentleman of great property and unexceptionable character, considerations which must add a degree of respectability to all with whom the family held any intercourse or connection. But that notwithstanding these impressions had been made upon her mind, she was now convinced, from what had been urged in so frank, candid, and ingenuous a manner, of the sincerity of his intentions, and determined to adopt any mode that might in friendship be suggested for breaking off the intercourse that subsisted between the Captain and her daughter, adding, that time should never efface the remembrance of his counsel upon so interesting an occasion.

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The evening had advanced imperceptibly during this conversation, and night approaching, Mrs. H—— wished to join her daughter, who had taken a separate walk in company with her suitor. The INSECT protracted the time, under pretence of searching the walks till it became dark, when he returned to the old Lady, and suggesting to her the probability of her having gone home under the protection of the Captain, persuaded her to return under that of her most assured friend.

She waited, however, a considerable time with the greatest impatience, and solicited the INSECT again to go in quest of them, as they were probably looking or waiting for her. He complied with her desire, and soon returned, affecting the highest agitation of mind, and expressing his fear that his caution and advice had been offered too late, as, after repeated enquiries and researches, it occurred to him, the young couple had set off for Scotland. The state of Mrs. H——'s finances would not admit of a pursuit; so that, overpowered by the disastrous incident, she sat down inconsolable. Her pretended friend bade her still take comfort, assuring her that no means should be left untried by him, to prevent the union, and then took his leave, under pretence of setting out post, for the purpose of overtaking them on the road.

But notwithstanding his professions of friendship, and devotion to the interest of the afflicted mother, he proceeded no farther than Highgate, where, having remained a few days, he returned to Mrs. H——, and with an assumed dejection of countenance, assured her in most melancholy accent, that finding it impossible, after the most strenuous endeavours and much hazard, to overtake them, he had given up the attempt: however, he could offer it as his opinion, by way of consoling her in the present situation of affairs, that though the Captain's income would not admit of the luxuries, it was competent to the necessities of life, which he presumed would never be wanting. The poor old Lady, despairing now of her daughter's advancement in life, and concluding from the elopement, on the certainty of a connection between the parties, also gave up her enquiries.

As their residence at Highgate was in the parish of St. Pancras, after being asked thrice in the church, according to usual form, the nuptials were solemnized at Kentish town. Upon this occasion the INSECT assumed the office of father, and gave the hand of the deluded fair one to a man induced to enter upon the nuptial union by the sole consideration of obtaining a fortune, in which both parties were miserably disappointed.

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The gordian knot thus tied, secrecy was no longer necessary; the Captain therefore waited on the mother, who weighing circumstances with prudence, and anxious to press her daughter once more to her bosom, stifled her resentment, withheld intended reproaches, and received him with apparent complacency.

The fortune being the grand object of the Captain's pursuit, he came to the point with the old Lady, without any hesitation. Anxious for the happiness of her daughter, she informed him that her fortune was held in trust till she should come of age, and that all she could be in possession of till that period, was 100 l. bequeathed her by a deceased friend, to be paid down on the day of marriage. The hero, willing to make the best of a bad market, pocketed the cash, and made preparations for the trip to Margate, where he and his spouse arrived, in a few days, accompanied by the INSECT.

Here he had opportunity for indulging his theatrical whim without restraint. The character in which he excelled, was Darby in the little operatical piece, called the Poor Soldier; but through want of spirit in the performance of the part of Bagatelle, Darby lost much of its effect, and of course was not received with the applause it really merited.

To supply this defect, the Captain and his friends importuned the INSECT to undertake the character, and, after much solicitation, he was prevailed on to appear again on the stage ; notwithstanding the solemn promise he had made his father never more to exhibit himself to public view. The old gentleman was no sooner made acquainted with his irresolute disobedient behaviour, than he shewed a just resentment in withholding those supplies which had enabled him to appear in a respectable light, and exempted him from the taunts of insolence and the sneers of arrogance.

The sums he had squandered, and the known property of his father, however, obtained him credit for some time, during which he experienced no want. But his own extravagance, and the assistance he rendered the Captain and his spouse, who were now wholly supported by him, at length ruined his credit, and reduced him to a state of penury, so that he determined, as upon former occasions of a similar kind, to return to town.

To raise the means was a difficulty that occurred of course ; it being generally known that his finances were exhausted, and his supplies withdrawn, he was persuaded that by soliciting any pecuniary loan, he should only incur a contemptuous rejection ; therefore, to evade application to any of the circle of acquaintance

quaintance he had formed at Margate, who were least disposed to assist such as were most in want, he hit upon a project for the accomplishment of his design.

At his order a bill was printed, announcing the performance of the several pieces of the Poor Soldier, the Virgin Unmasked, and Miss in her Teens. Principal characters in each by two gentlemen, for the benefit of a *Widow and Nine helpless Children*.

Mr. Robson, the manager, very obligingly gave the house free from expence. The visitants of Margate, from a laudable principle of humanity, were profuse in their charitable donations, so that the receipt at the doors of the Theatre, amounted to a very considerable sum, which the heroes having, as they pretended, taken in trust for the purposes announced; as soon as the performance closed, they decamped in a post-chaise and four, which conveyed them and the Lady to town.

This very abrupt departure gave rise to a report that the two gentlemen, as they called themselves, had run off with the poor widow's money. But the report was without foundation; for the widow and nine helpless children were, as was afterwards discovered, *in nubibus*. It was a device to gull the public, a lure held

held out to administer to the necessity of debauched and dissolute characters.

This circumstance engaged general attention, and was for some time the prevailing topic of conversation throughout the circles of the Margate visitants. What plea can be urged for so flagrant a perversion of the sacred cause of humanity? for so scandalous an imposition on the belief of many respectable personages? Necessity is the general plea for desperate deeds; but that, nor any other consideration can justify a deviation from the laws of justice, and the immutable principles of right and wrong.

The hero of these Memoirs had frequently before exposed himself to the extreme of necessity and distress by launching into every excess of extravagance and dissipation. He had forfeited the favour of an indulgent and liberal parent, by frequent violations of solemn promises of amendment, and hurried himself into actions that incurred universal odium. This must be placed amongst the number, and is introduced to point out to what a flagitious degree of conduct and behaviour, passions unrestrained, may carry their votaries. But to return.

The Captain and his spouse, on their arrival, paid a visit to their mother, were received

ceived with apparent cordiality, and took up their abode with the old Lady for some time. During their residence here, the husband had frequent occasions for enquiring into the reality of what had been advanced concerning the daughter's fortune ; and finding at length, from the duplicity and evasion with which replies were made to several questions proposed in order to ascertain the matter, that the Lady's pretensions were as futile as his own ; after venting the fury of his rage, he declared his resolution of commencing strolling player, or in more elegant phrase, itinerant actor. Pursuant to this determination, he applied for and obtained an engagement at Brighton, where he figured away upon the stage, and his Lady (Oh, dreadful degradation !) as superintendant of a fruit shop.

Her person having much attraction, she became the toast of the circle of gallants ; and a certain exalted personage being noticed to cast frequent amorous glances at her, gave rise to reports which reflected no honour on her character. The result, in fine, of this matrimonial connection, was the husband's departure from England, to avoid imprisonment for debt, and the daughter's return to her mother, to avoid the miseries to which a woman, abandoned to the wide world, must be inevitably exposed.

With

With respect to those Quixote adventurers, called fortune-hunters, it has generally been observed, that their crime is often their punishment ; that they are frequently disappointed in their expectations ; and that their aspiring vanity in many instances sinks them below their native obscurity.

As to the female world, notwithstanding the gaiety, pride and folly, in some measure allowable in them; a small degree of reflection must point out the folly of parents, in raising the expectation of daughters beyond the limits of their fortune ; and happy would it have been for many females of no dependance, if the good dames their mothers, instead of training them up in all the pride and luxury of the gay world, had instructed them in the duties of domestic life ; in which case they might have been rendered good wives, instead of being consigned to all the miseries attendant on prostitution, protracted beyond the period of possessing charms to please.

Men of a sober turn, prefer domestic qualifications to all the glare of tinsel finery, and would chuse a woman capable of making a pudding and darning a stocking, before the gaudy belle, decorated by the waving plume or encircled with the brilliant zone.

The

The INSECT, on his return to town, was caressed by his associates, and received tokens of singular regard from the son of a gentleman, who held a lucrative place under a great law lord; and, having acquired a considerable fortune, allowed this son an income adequate to the support of a very respectable appearance. With this friend our hero took up his abode, which at that time, for certain causes, was extremely convenient; but as their revels and riots, not only disturbed the family residing in the house where they lodged, but were represented as a nuisance to the neighbourhood, the landlord was under a necessity of having recourse to means of expulsion, which gave rise to a project formed by the two associates for an excursion into the country.

As extravagance leads to poverty, and necessity is the mother of invention, it was expedient, in the exhausted state of their finances, to have recourse to their wits, in order to procure a supply of cash, which was more particularly requisite, as they were to be accompanied in the excursion by two celebrated beauties; the following scheme was therefore concerted:

Mr. P——, the INSECT's associate upon this occasion, having disposed of an elegant steed to a Mr. S——, of Furnival's Inn; the INSECT, a few hours after the deposit of

the purchase money, applied to Mr. S——, and affecting great partiality for this Bucephalus; offered a very advanced price for him, provided his note for the sum stipulated, would be taken at a few weeks date. Here it is to be observed, that Mr. P—— had previously pledged his honour, to make up half the sum when the note became due. The project succeeded, the INSECT obtained possession of the steed, which being immediately disposed of to a dealer, the heroes were put into running cash, and set off with their doxies on the intended tour: but as their expences were high, and their finances low, their pleasures were of fleeting duration, and therefore accelerated their return to town, as well as gave rise to another project, in which the hero of these Memoirs, as upon most other occasions, was palpably gulled.

Mr. P——, having represented to the INSECT the expediency of his applying to a friend in the country for the loan of some cash, requested our hero to procure him a gig; alledging, that as he, Mr. P——, was known to be so furious a charioteer, nay a very Phaeton, no coach master would trust him with a decent vehicle.

A gig was accordingly hired by the INSECT; and, as it was disposed of by Mr. P——, whether through disappointment
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in his expectation, or any other cause, the proprietor applied to the hirer for its immediate return, urging importunately, that he had found a purchaser. Mr. S—— was full as pressing for the taking up the note, which had been due some days: the INSECT was now doubly involved, and being incapable of answering the demand made upon him from either quarter, was accosted by one of the venerable fraternity of shoulder-dabbers, and put under arrest for the gig. Mr. P——, his pretended friend, who had returned by this time, and well knew the disagreeable predicament under which he lay, never came to console him in his misfortunes, or afford him the least relief; perhaps the gentleman's absence proceeded from his very delicate feelings, and the dread of being put to the blush.

The poor INSECT, thus left and deserted by pretended friends, and exposed to the depredations of merciless harpies, had no other resource than that of applying to his relations, to solicit the interference of his father, in extricating him from the present dilemma, which if it continued much longer, would subject him to calamities that might be attended with ignominious and perhaps fatal consequences. This consideration was to be enforced by representing to the old gentleman his forlorn and hapless situation, as deprived of his protection,

tection, and thereby, as he had no profession to follow, of his sole means of subsistence.

His father with some difficulty was again prevailed on to readmit this prodigal to his forfeited favour, take him under immediate protection, discharge his debts, and promise, on his solemn assurance of abandoning the whole circle of his former associates, to place him in an advantageous situation for prosecuting his studies in the law.

His honour being pledged for the observance of his father's injunction, chambers were taken in the Temple, a library was purchased, and every accommodation procured in order to further the intended design.

Thus elated in situation, our hero became, as is natural, elated in spirits. The illiberality of Mr. P ——— recurred to his mind with aggravated detestation, insomuch that he determined no longer to stifle his resentment. Accordingly, he wrote to Mr. P ———, censuring his conduct with the utmost asperity, and branding him with the most opprobrious epithets. Nor did he spare the other gentleman, Mr. S ———, whom, as the note was taken up, he reprobated for his impertinence, declaring it as his opinion, that the parties had entered into a confederacy in order to defraud.

The

The two gentlemen gave no answer to the notes which contained these reprehensions of their conduct ; but reserved their revenge for the next night ; when, as there was to be a Masquerade at the Pantheon, they would have an opportunity of wreaking it more forcibly on the INSECT, their destined object, who it was well known would be present at that alluring species of entertainment.

The character assumed by our hero upon this occasion was that of a Penitent Prostitute, so that the female garb, being a sure disguise, would have eluded the observation of the assailants, had not chance exposed the victim to their relentless fury.

It happened unfortunately at the time of the breaking up of the jovial assembly, that the two associates were waiting for a conveyance, just upon the spot where the INSECT, unmasking, got into a chair. Under pretence of having something to communicate, they caused the chair to be opened, and without any preface, belaboured the delicate frame of our hero, with such reiterated and violent strokes, as to threaten the speedy loss of a most invaluable life.

No doubt, according to the prevailing taste, and as a requisite to form the gentleman of the present day, these daring spirits had been under

the tuition of some celebrated pugilist, who had instructed them in the art not only of clinching the fist most scientifically, but applying it most effectually, as the INSECT's battered carcase could most amply testify. The heroes however evinced very little prowess on the occasion, which could not fail to impeach both their honour and their courage.

The INSECT was carried to his chambers in the Temple in a most pitiable situation ; a situation that brought him to sober reflection, and caused him to ruminate with abhorrence and disgust on his many egregious follies, which had not only subjected him to penury and disgrace, but also endangered his life.

Consulting his friends upon the melancholy occasion, they advised him first to have recourse to law, and then according to custom to send a challenge to the respective parties. While he lay confined to his bed in a state of suspense, his father whom he was prevented from visiting, had dispatched several messengers to enquire into the cause of his absence. After framing a variety of excuses, he at length determined to deal ingenuously with a parent, who had treated him with every instance of candour and liberality, and therefore explicitly informed him of the several transactions, together with the resolutions he had taken respecting his subsequent conduct.

Having

Having received his father's sanction for putting his designs into execution, a judge's warrant was issued against the assailants, who, intimidated by so formidable a process, commissioned a friend to assure the injured party, that they were ready to meet him in the field, provided he would cause the warrant to be withdrawn.

Their clandestine mode of proceeding, their obvious fallacy and dastardly assault precluding compliance with the condition proposed ; they had recourse to defamation, and by reporting our hero as a coward in declining the proffered meeting, subjected him to the contemptuous sneer of many who were unacquainted with the rise and progress of the transactions in question.

The INSECT and Mr. S—— happening to meet at St. Clement's coffee-house, and the subject in dispute coming on the tapis, the former received such taunting, opprobrious language from the latter, that to resent the affront, and vindicate his character, he agreed to follow him to his chambers in Furnival's Inn; and there terminate the dispute. Upon their arrival unattended, two rusty pistols were produced, which there is reason to apprehend were most eligible to both the heroes, who averse to the effusion of human blood, seemed

to indicate a desire of retreating from the dread scene of action.

To evade coming to the decisive point, our hero from the circumstance of his antagonist's assaulting him at an unguarded hour, when he was unsuspicious of the design, and unprepared for defence, (alluding to the late assault upon him in the chair) suggested an apprehension of being ill used, or cruelly treated if he should chance to be wounded, and pointed out the propriety of calling in the aid of a surgeon, and the attendance of a friend. This expedient affording opportunity for a momentary pause, the INSECT dropped the pistol, of which the antagonist availing himself, had recourse to the pugillistic art, and gave him with his fist a violent blow, which was returned by another with a loaded cane. An outrageous scuffle and noise ensued, insomuch that the servant being awakened, and anxious for the preservation of the life of his dear master, from whose delicate cheek the blood issued in copious streams, opened the door in order to afford the INSECT an opportunity for retreat, which was eagerly embraced by our hero, who fled from the scene of action with much more precipitation than he had entered upon it.

Vaunting on the advantage he seemed to have gained in the contest which had just taken place, our hero no sooner reached his chambers, than
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he dispatched a challenge not only to Mr. S——, but his associate Mr. P——; the letters being delivered by a military blade, Captain R——, an answer was promised the next day by the respective parties; but instead of having recourse to the decision either of sword or pistol, which endanger the lives of his majesty's liege subjects, they adopted the more cautious and secure means of giving directions to an attorney to proceed immediately against the INSECT, who, as fearful of the consequences of a process as Mr. S—— had been of a former one, made proposals of compromise, which being accepted, the matter was hushed up, all proceedings were dropped; and thus terminated this mighty important affair, which from its origin, throughout its whole progress, reflects equal disgrace and ignominy on the respective parties.

The injunction of his father, together with accumulated debts, forced Mr. P—— into exile, where he has ever since remained in obscurity. Mr. S—— for similar causes betook himself to Lisbon, where he died soon after.

As it was proposed to comment with freedom and impartiality on the most striking incidents which occur in the course of these memoirs; we take occasion to observe, that in the eye of justice, and by the rules of decorum, this triumvirate of knaves, fools, and paltrons, must

must be deemed equally censurable, and deserve to be held up to public view as examples to be shunned by all who wish to pass through life with reputation, do honour to humanity, and, in fine, answer the grand end of their existence.

The friendship such characters profess for each other, is generally affected, and founded on base and sinister motives. Hence, in the end they become reciprocal dupes, and play off their artillery of fraud, duplicity and dissimulation, to their mutual destruction. This was the case in the instance before us.

The INSECT and Mr. P—— first acted in conjunction in order to put a trick upon their professed friend Mr. S——. The project succeeded; but our volatile unthinking genius was soon after gulled by his professed friend Mr. P——, in the affair of the gig, and rendered responsible not only to the proprietor, but to Mr. S—— for the payment of the sum due upon his note. These circumstances exposed him to an arrest, with its attendant inconveniences, and it may be added calamities, in cases of penury. Many difficulties protracted, for a time, the effecting a reconciliation with his father. His Quixotic ideas of honour occasioned him a severe drubbing, which shocked an impaired constitution, and seemed to augur alarming consequences.

His

His pretended friends, P—— and S——, then turned their artillery upon him, and had recourse to the finesse of the law which he had practised upon the latter, till from the same causes which actuated him on the first occasion, the parties came to a compromise, and the whole affair evaporated in fumo; and it is difficult to determine which of the three is most deserving of censure, for the general tenour of their behaviour and conduct.

Our hero soon after he took up his residence in the Temple, and was introduced into the family of Mr. R——, an attorney of great eminence and respectability, who lived in spacious apartments in that Inn of court. His musical talents procured him the admiration and esteem of the old gentleman and his two daughters, who were all harmoniously inclined, insomuch that the chambers were the rendezvous of the amateurs and professors of the science. The eldest miss R—— had been under the tuition of the first masters, and attained to a considerable degree of skill both in theory and practice.

From a similar turn, she discovered great partiality for the INSECT, seemed much affected by his indisposition in consequence of the late affray, and made frequent enquiries concerning the state of his health. Indeed he had so far ingratiated himself with Mr. R——, that

that he expressed a wish of having him under his immediate care, and assured him, if he was disposed to become one of his family, he should be treated with every indulgence, and exempted from that tedious attendance on business, which he knew to be incompatible with the gaiety of his disposition. The INSECT politely declined this liberal offer, intimating a design of being called to the bar.

However, his invitations to dine and pass the evening, were so frequent, and the attention paid him so extraordinary, that it is no wonder his vanity was inflated, and that he should be disposed to commence an affair of gallantry; or rather turn his views towards forming an alliance with a family which had so many important considerations to recommend them to general esteem.

The supposed opulence of the father, who had resided thirty years in the Temple, during which he carried on a practice most respectable as well as extensive: the attractive charms and ornamental accomplishments of the daughters, were considerations, which, united, could not fail of commanding the notice of the students, or rendering the ladies their common toast.

The eldest miss R——, whose performances on the harp as well as the harpsichord were
greatly

greatly admired, and who had shewn so many instances of civility to our hero, now became the object of his attention, insomuch that he determined to exert every effort to gain possession of her heart. From early life he had been practised in the arts of gallantry, and well instructed in love's catechism, so that he may be supposed capable of addressing a lady in all the prevailing forms and modes of an accomplished suitor.

Many circumstances tended to further his success. The young lady having lost her mother in her infancy, was deprived of that sage counsel which is necessary to guard the tender female mind against the wiles of men. Attendance on her father, whose indisposition rendered him peevish and petulant, together with the management of the domestic concerns of the family, which devolved on her from seniority, in some degree embittered life, and might incline her to wish to change its mode. In fine, our hero plied love's artillery so effectually, and made such impression on the young lady's heart, as to compleat his desire in obtaining her consent to elope.

The proposal however was prevented from being carried into execution, by her father's second paralytic attack, which threatened his dissolution. The lady seemed chagrined at the disappointment, but no event could more correspond

respond with the wishes of our hero, who was too well skilled in the chicanery of life, to be bound by the indissoluble ties of matrimony, without ascertaining that very necessary appendage, a fortune. The lady's consent to elope, afforded him satisfaction, as a proof that he had gained an ascendancy in his favour; though he by no means wished to carry the proposal into execution, conscious that a precipitate marriage would most probably incur the displeasure of the father, and exclude him from the fortune which was his grand aim throughout the whole proceeding.

Actuated by this principle, and therefore little inclined to marry first, and repent afterwards, he had recourse to the arts of duplicity and finesse. He pointed out to her the propriety, respecting both her duty and interest, of deferring the celebration of the marriage rites to the demise of her father, an event which according to the opinion of the faculty, must soon take place. He represented to her in pathetic terms, the censure to which she would be exposed for deserting an affectionate parent in his expiring moments, and the tendency which an abrupt departure might have to accelerate his much deprecated dissolution.

By these persuasive arguments, and others of a similar kind, he not only inclined her to compliance with his desire, but prepossessed

her with an opinion of his humanity, discretion, and attachment, to such a degree, as induced her to resign herself to his guidance and direction.

Mr. R—— having a country seat at W——n, where the family usually resided from May till November, and the physicians recommending the country air as salutary to their patient, orders were given to make preparations for removal; and as our hero was to pass the summer with them, he was vested with an unlimited power of providing whatever he thought might conduce to their general convenience or amusement.

The removal of the family, through the prevailing indisposition of the father, was with much difficulty at length effected, and the place of residence being but seventeen miles distant from Southampton, the INSECT passed much of his time there. This circumstance greatly alarmed the mind of the lady, and was by no means pleasing to the father, as it afforded just cause to doubt the sincerity of his professions, and repent of their admitting him to such confidential intimacy and freedom.

A short time after their arrival, from certain symptoms attending the old gentleman, a third stroke of the palsy was apprehended, but death put a period to his existence without the aid

of that dire and frequently fatal attack. The demise of a man eminently humane, hospitable and charitable, it is natural to suppose would have overwhelmed his surviving descendants, at least in floods of tears: this, however, was so far from being the case, that joy beamed in their countenances; and they evidently appeared to anticipate the pleasures that must result from the unrestrained indulgence of their passions, when in actual possession of the dowries they had realized in idea.

The only respect paid to the relicks of the parent, was a sumptuous funeral. They were deposited in the family vault with solemn pomp, but either a total apathy, or exquisite grief, (causes which though diametrically opposite in their nature, are frequently similar in their effect) precluded the issue of a single tear, nor could any thing more than a vacant gaze be discerned in the countenances of the attending mourners.

When this ceremony was concluded, the INSECT wrote to his friend A——, the attorney, requesting him to set off immediately for W——n, to assist in the discovery of the legacies, and give his opinion and advice in such other matters as might fall under his cognizance in the line of his profession. At the same time he gave him a general hint of his future intentions and designs.

After

After the opening of the will, miss R— acquainted the INSECT, that she was appointed executrix, and her cousin George (a youth of a refractory disposition) the sole executor. She intimated that her father did not die in such affluent circumstances as was generally expected, but that there were contingent matters, which, if conducted with discretion, could not fail of procuring a competent income. From his own practice and experience, our hero shrewdly suspected that these intimations were founded on a design of putting the validity of his professions, promises, and assurances to the test, and therefore deported himself accordingly.

Instead of abating in his assiduities, or discovering the least degree of languor either in word or action, which the lady might be induced to expect from the information she had given him; he renewed his addresses with additional fervor, appealed to Heaven for the sincerity of his protestations, and solemnly avowed his determination, as soon as decency would admit, of leading her to the altar.

In order to elude her suspicion more effectually, he proceeded to declare, that from motives of the profoundest esteem and respect for herself and family, he had waved those advances that her particular concessions at certain times seemed to encourage: that from his sacred re-

gard for her person, he had kept his passions so far under the restraint of reason, as to check any attempt at improper liberties, and conjured her to attribute the occasional silence and distance which she had observed in his behavior, to real esteem and unfeigned affection. The lady wasfoothed so effectually by the winning arts of her suitor, that banishing all suspicion, she cherished the same regard for him as she had entertained before the late catastrophe.

The arrival of Mr. A—— caused some degree of confusion in the family. George R——, hearing in town, of the style in which the INSECT and his companion figured away in the country, with a train of servants, horses, and dogs, and of the splendid entertainments made for their friends who visited them from Southampton, enjoined the servants of the mansion, by epistolary mandate, to put the corn and hay under lock and key, turn the horses out of the stable, and the two intruding gentlemen out of the doors.

The servants fearing to incur the displeasure of Miss R——, and by no means averse to the continuance of the visitants in the family, produced the letters which contained the orders. Miss R——, as executrix, asserting as much right to countermand, as her cousin George R—— had to command, put a negative to his mandate, and thus matters rested

rested in statu quo ; but the subtle adventurers apprehending a speedy visit from the young executor, at W——n, prevailed on Miss R—— and her sister to withdraw to Southampton, and there remain until they should receive information of his arrival ; when they recommended it as expedient to return to their chambers in the Temple, and convey the plate, jewels, &c. to any place that might be most agreeable to themselves. The advice being given under pretence of the gentlemen's anxious concern for the ladies securing their property, by taking possession of the furniture, &c. was complied with, preparation made for instant departure, and they set off in cavalcade for Southampton.

Miss R—— and her sister in their late father's post chariot, drawn by four horses, preceded. The INSECT, accompanied by his friend A——, followed in a phaeton, their valets and grooms leading each a horse,

This splendid appearance, added to the approved musical talents of the INSECT, and the respectable characters and rare accomplishments of the young ladies, procured them a flattering reception at Southampton, where they mixed with the first personages, and commanded every attention, during their stay, which in their opinion, from the pleasures it afforded, was of too fleeting duration.

The news of George's arrival at W——n, pointed out the expediency of their immediate departure, to prevent the executor from taking effectual means for stopping them in their career. Miss R—— the younger, repaired to W——n, having framed a plausible story to amuse the cousin, while the INSECT, attorney, and the elder Miss R——, set off post for town.

Meeting at Guildford with a party of convivial friends, accompanied by partners from amongst the frail sisterhood, in order to enjoy their engaging company, the gentlemen framed a pretence of having a little business to settle there, and prevailed on Miss R—— to prosecute her journey, and pack up the moveables, assuring her that they would be with her as soon as possible. It being an easy task to impose on credulity, the lady pursued her journey, and upon arrival, was making every preparation for the security of the property; but an intermeddling young Hibernian, a suitor of her sister, who had apartments a story or two above theirs, at all hazards interfered, and by intimidating the porters with threats of prosecution, prevented the removal of a single article.

In the mean time, George, by alternate promises and threats, found means to extort from the younger Miss R——, a confession of
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the whole plot, and therefore, to counteract it, immediately set off post for London.

The INSECT and attorney, fraught with the most sanguine expectations of a mighty boon, no sooner returned from their carousing at Guildford, than they hastened to Doctors Commons to search for the will of the deceased Mr. R——. Words cannot express their astonishment, disappointment, and chagrin, when they discovered the true state of affairs, and found that the little there was, in comparison with what had been currently reported, effectually secured from their rapacious clutches.

The only portion that fell to Miss R——, was two hundred pounds per annum, specified by will to be paid to her own hand and receipt alone, and totally exempt from the controul of an husband.

This exclusive clause was wormwood to the INSECT, who was therefore inclined to give up the pursuit, being now convinced that the object was not worth following. Indeed, he had determined to leave to the lady the management of the plate, jewels, &c. while he devised the most expeditious method of making his retreat.

But

But the subtle attorney, still intent on the main chance, notwithstanding the late mortifying discovery, finding that only a part of the late Mr. R——'s business was bequeathed to the cousin, while the greater share devolved to Miss R——, who was vested with full power of nominating a person to act in her behalf, according to the express tenor of the will; pointed out to the INSECT, the expediency of still keeping up appearances with the lady, as it was highly probable he might get the business into his own hands, observing at the same time, that as the profits were supposed to have amounted to a thousand pounds annually, for many years, it would be unworthy their enterprizing spirit to give up so promising a view.

When this particular circumstance was hinted to the lady; though evidently piqued at the coolness and inattention of the INSECT, she gave for answer, that she was totally unacquainted with the person and abilities of Mr. A—, however, if the former was to derive benefit from any proposal that might be made, she would take the matter into consideration; but observed she could come to no resolution, without the concurrence of her cousin George, to whose opinion she was determined to refer, in future, all concerns of importance.

She concluded her reply, with shrewdly remarking,

marking, that she came to that determination, from the recent experience she had of the abuse of her confidence in others, who had most disingenuously deserted her, at the very critical juncture when their aid was most required ; and that being thus compelled to repose a confidence in her cousin, she would never withdraw it, but upon the most substantial evidence of its being abused.

To our Hero, she particularly addressed herself in words to the following import :

“ I must take the liberty, Sir, of censuring
 “ your conduct in the severest terms, and reproaching you with violation of the laws of
 “ honour, of generosity, and of gratitude.
 “ You must be conscious of the singular attention shewn you at my late hospitable father’s
 “ convivial board.—You cannot be insensible
 “ of the predilection, which, through the frailty
 “ of my sex, I discovered in your favour.—
 “ You certainly recollect the candour with
 “ which I represented to you the general state
 “ of affairs on the demise of my father, and
 “ the very solemn declaration you made, in consequence of that event. Relying on their
 “ veracity, I reposed in you a most implicit
 “ confidence ; adopted expedients, not the
 “ most laudable, till I was at length egregiously
 “ duped by my own credulity, and deserted by the very man, to whose protection
 “ I had

“ I had unquestionable claim.—I shall take
 “ care, however, to profit by my expe-
 “ rience.”

Notwithstanding the ambiguous reply to the attorney's proposal, and the severe censure of the INSECT's conduct, such was the perseverance of our enterprising adventurers, that application was made upon the business to the cousin, who, after some little reflection, declined entering into any agreement with Mr. A—, as a person of whom he had no knowledge.

Our Hero was not, however, intimidated by repulses, which would have appalled less daring spirits, or put to the blush more modest countenances—Elated with the idea of one thousand pounds per annum, and cherishing hopes of surmounting every object, he determined to play off his artillery upon George.

Here he adopted the maxims, prescribed by a noble lord in his Letters to his Son, by indulging his foibles, extolling his talents, and flattering his vanity ; in which he succeeded so effectually, that, under pretence of putting him on his guard, he so totally put him off, as to obtain his consent, to place the direction of the business in behalf of the lady, in the hands of one of his (the INSECT's) relations, a Mr. G—, of Villier's-street, undertaking to bring his father to agreement as to articles, as the
 young

young gentleman was averse to the study, attention, and labour, which were requisite to qualify him for the bar.

Our Hero piqued himself on carrying his point thus far. He had the address to impose on the cousin, and to preserve appearances of love and esteem for the lady, though foreign to the heart. These he considered as arduous tasks, from the accomplishment of which, he promised himself the attainment of the grand object of his pursuit, which was to have a share of the business during the term of the articleship, and the whole when it expired.

But his mighty expectations soon vanished in air; for George, revolving the matter in his mind, and consulting his friend, and particularly a Mr. L——, clerk to his late uncle, these aspiring youths, desirous of engrossing the whole, came to a resolution of carrying on the business without an additional coadjutor, which baffled the INSECT's scheme for introducing his relation, in order to subserve his own designs. Miss R——, from a retrospect of the whole business, finding she had been most palpably gulled, as well as convinced of the base intent of her perfidious suitor, committed all her concerns to the management of her cousin, and retired for a few weeks with her sister into the country. A resolution highly agreeable, as circumstances were

were now situated, to our hero, who most cordially wished to rid himself both of the business and the lady.

In the course of a few weeks, he heard, to his astonishment, that Miss R—— had entered into the bands of wedlock, with a theatrical vocal performer, formerly occupied in the very useful employ of a taylor, and that her sister was under the protection of the little Irish barrister, mentioned before.

George, after venting his rage in a letter replete with obloquy, paid the debt of nature. The business is now carried on by Mr. L——, who, from his equitable distribution of the shares, deserves much credit.

Miss R——, now Mrs. D——, if her circumstances are not affluent, possesses a competence, and what surpasses every other consideration, the affection of her husband ; who, conscious of her merit, pays her every attention ; for in spite of the maxims of rakes and debauchees, we are bold to assert, that conjugal bliss is the perfection of our present state of existence.

With respect to the younger Miss R——, her fate is to be lamented ; to say more might raise a blush on the cheek of modesty, or call forth a sigh from the breast of virtue.

Thus

Thus foiled in his attempts, and disappointed in his expectations, our hero renounced the law, and all its connections. At this critical juncture, when every resource was stopped, and he was left entirely to his wits, it fortunately happened that his father, through a lucky stroke, having obtained the lottery from the minister, he presented his ungracious son with some thousand pounds stock, in consequence of which, a resolution took place, many of his former companions were discarded, and he figured away in a splendid style.

Fortune seems to have favoured our hero more particularly in every exigence, though all his embarrassments were the result of his own indiscretion, and he had invariably sported with her most valuable gifts.

It appears from the general tenor of his conduct, that the repeated experience he had of his father's paternal affection, emboldened him in his wild pursuits, through a persuasion of being re-admitted to favour and protection, whenever his excesses should reduce him to such dilemma, as to render the interference of an indulgent parent indispensibly necessary, to retrieve him from impending ruin.

He had made repeated trials of it, and as it never failed, proceeded in a course of dissipation and extravagance, without the least apprehension of disastrous consequences of any continuance; as well as without the least remorse or compunction for the follies and vices into which his passions had hurried him.

An event fell out soon after, that afforded the INSECT, and his companion Mr. A——, an opportunity of making a trip to Paris, which according to report, was to recover a sum of money won at play; but the real cause arose from the following circumstance:

Mrs. K——y, an accommodating lady of the higher class, had demands on a certain *dulcinea*, who cohabits with the prince of D——g, at Paris. The management of Mrs. K——y's affairs being committed to the care of the attorney, who frequently visited her, accompanied by the INSECT; the good lady took occasion to relate the circumstance to them, and hint, that if she could prevail upon them to make a trip to the continent, and undertake the recovery of the debt, she entertained not a doubt, from their skill and adroitness, but the effort would be crowned with all imaginable success; promising, in that case, to defray the incidental

dental expences, and make them ample compensation for their services.

But there was another consideration that had much more weight with the heroes, than any pecuniary motive.

The accommodating lady had pledged her honour, to convey safe and sound to Paris, two exquisite British beauties of her own selecting and training; one for the amusement of the duke of O——, the other for the gratification of a Russian nobleman then resident in that metropolis.

The young ladies were to be entrusted to their care, and as they were confident from the allowed experience and judgment of the purveyor, that they would be *nonpareils* in their kind, it not a little facilitated their acceptance of the proposal.

To enforce their compliance more strongly, this very obliging lady, ever desirous of replenishing her stock in trade with the rarest and choicest commodities, for the accommodation of her very illustrious and munificent patrons, requested her friends to escort two Parisian beauties to England, at her expence, leaving the choice to their judgment, as they were professed connoisseurs in phy-

stagnomy, shape, air, mien, and every qualification that constitutes female attraction.

A proposal so consonant with the genius and disposition, and so admirably adapted to the abilities of the eccentric blades, was seized by them with avidity, and executed with alacrity.

They set out in full glee, with arms and purses full, and arriving at Dover, were wafted across the channel, by an auspicious gale to Calais, whence they proceeded without delay, to the metropolis, gave up their charge, and gratified themselves with all the amusements of that seat of luxury and dissipation.

In the course of three months, their finances were nearly exhausted, therefore, having made choice of, and come to terms with two of the brightest blossoms in the domains of Venus, they returned home with their invaluable charge, and were highly complimented on their arrival, for the precision with which they had executed their commission.

We might here remark, how greatly mankind, in general, are attracted by foreign commodities of almost every kind. Foreign dresses, foreign viands, foreign wines,
and

foreign women ; articles, which, in a considerable degree, constitute the luxury of life, are admired and sought after, merely because they are of exotic origin.

The accommodating lady before mentioned, persuaded of the truth of this observation, deals both in imports and exports.

She imports the beauties of France for the amusement of British gallants, and exports the beauties of Britain for the entertainment of foreign connoisseurs in the charms of a face, and the grace of a figure. And no doubt she is liberally rewarded for thus extending her commerce for the good of the community, which it is sincerely hoped, by her friends, will not be abridged or interrupted by imposts, either of customs or excise, in this age of general taxation.

The liberal manner in which our hero was compensated for the services, that, in conjunction with the efforts of his friend, he had rendered the good old lady, enabled him to appear in the gayer circles with his usual eclat, and maintain the character of a *bon vivant*, with the honour he had long acquired.

Foreign scenes, foreign customs, and foreign manners, of which he had taken so recent

recent a review, added to former experience, seemed to have finished his character, and qualified him for maintaining a rank of ascendancy in the beau monde. His additional accomplishments in the arts of dress and address, as displayed in a degree that could not fail to captivate the votaries of fashion, procured him the approbation, and even admiration of his associates in general, as well as enhanced him in the estimation of the frail sisterhood; whose good graces he deemed it his highest honour to possess.

Our hero soon after this adventure, took up his residence in St. Alban's Street, Pall Mall, and there acquired a considerable degree of estimation from the skill he displayed at several musical entertainments he gave, which were attended by some persons of the first fashion.

But, as instead of restraining, he now gave a greater scope to licentiousness, and became notorious for the violation of every rule of decorum, those who had a regard for the preservation of character, though they acknowledged his professional merit, wished to conceal from the world their having ever been under his roof; and were ashamed to profess a friendship for, or, even acquaintance with, a man, to countenance whom would be avowing a predilection for debauchery

bauchery and libertinism, in the highest degree.

Amongst other amateurs, the INSECT, through the celebrity of his musical talents, was introduced to Major George H——r, a character well known, and much esteemed in the higher classes, for the frankness of his disposition, and the liberality of his mind, as well as for the sanction with which he is honoured by a royal person, whose patronage to every art and science is universally known and admired.

A similarity of disposition in several instances, soon brought on an acquaintance, which terminated in an intimacy between that gentleman and our hero.

Equally eccentric, they passed together through a variety of diverting scenes and frolicksome adventures, most of which, as they are witnessed by characters of the first rank, from motives of delicacy, are withheld from public view. But, as their sportive sallies were not confined to any particular sphere of life, we shall relate the following, which may be depended on for authenticity.

A barber being observed to stop at a public house adjoining to the major's lodgings in
Jermyn

Jermyn street, every morning for his quota of enlivening fluid, and during his stay within doors, to leave his wig boxes carelessly without: to afford the INSECT an opportunity for playing him a trick, it was concerted that Jack (the major's black) should take occasion to call the barber up to shave his master. The design was accordingly put into execution; one morning the poor fellow obeyed Jack's summons, and while he was exercising his professional skill upon his master, which he then exerted in an extraordinary manner; the INSECT slipped down, and with some paint which had been prepared for the purpose, richly besmeared the cawls of all his perukes.

Puff having performed his office, made a reverend bow, hastened down stairs, gathered up his boxes, and proceeded upon his morning's round.

The boxes were left at the houses of the respective customers; but as Puff's rout was rather extensive, before he could reach home, several dons, whose venerable pates had been sullied with the cooling pomade, came bouncing furiously into his master's shop, and pouring forth hearty execrations, declared, not only their resolution of withdrawing

drawing their custom from him, but bringing him to condign punishment.

A gentleman of the quorum, whose spruce bag had been prophaned with the vile plaister, took the law into his own hand, and with his cane tapped the scone of master strap in such a manner, as he expressed it, as to paint the barber's face effectually in return, and draw forth an effusion of blood.

Puff the journeyman, as might naturally be expected, was kicked out of doors, and the only recompence he received upon application to the authors of his mishap, was a severe bastinado from the hands of his friend Mungo, who had been principally instrumental in drawing him into the predicament.

The Major and INSECT, passionately fond of acting in masquerade, observing in one of their tours, a board in the window of a barber's shop, inscribed with these words, "Shave well for a penny, and a glass of gin into the bargain," determined to assume the character of tonsor, and try their skill in the art and mystery of shaving, on a Sunday, at a shop in Long lane, Smithfield.

Having assumed the proper disguise, they made humble application for employ. The
master,

master, whether through knowledge of the party, and desire of indulging them in their frolick, with a view to a pecuniary compensation; or through hope of obtaining two auxiliaries at an easy rate, gave them admittance, and to work they went, lathering and scraping away with all their might. Those customers who were so fortunate as to come under the hands of these two proficient in the art, were sure to be either blinded or suffocated by one part of the operation, and flayed or mangled by the other.

A poor fellow who sat down under one of their hands, to undergo the operation of rescinding a venerable beard of a month's growth, after enduring much torture, which excited grinning and uncouth gesture, for a considerable time, at length exclaimed, "Mr. Shaver, you have scored me deeply, the gash will do, I am marked for a black sheep, I'll be d—n'd if I'm not." This jest, cruel as it must be acknowledged, past for once; but the blades attempting a repetition of it, got a good lathering in their turn, and were so well drubbed, as to perpetuate the memory of their frolick in Long Lane.

As eccentricity admits of no bounds, so audacity can hardly be put to the blush; and it is upon this principle alone, that the
strange

strange freaks of some as strange beings, can be admitted as possible. Notwithstanding the severe chastisement our blades met with for their late frolic, they could not restrain their propensity to fun, chicane, and impostor, as appears from the following instance :

The mistress of a Boarding school, not many miles distant from Chelsea, had the care of a young lady, supposed to be an illegitimate child of lord C——ne, by the late celebrated Mrs. Baddeley. The young lady, therefore, by relative connection, being the supposed neice of the Major, he paid her frequent visits at school, and to further a design of gallantry, planned between him and the INSECT, which was for the former to make off with Mademoiselle the French teacher, and the latter with the friend of Mademoiselle.

It was resolved to introduce the INSECT into the family in quality of dancing master. In order to this, the major took an opportunity of recommending to the mistress, a gentleman of the profession, whose skill in that graceful and ornamental art was known to all the connoisseurs; assuring her at the same time, that in consideration of her compliance with his request, he would strain a point, and exert his utmost efforts to make
considerable

considerable addition to the number of her scholars.

The mistress, persuaded that the major moved in the highest spheres of life, and that his connections were fashionable and numerous, from motives of interest, expressed the highest pleasure in an opportunity of obliging him; and informed him, that the gentleman he recommended might commence dancing master to the school as soon as he thought proper, as she should send for, and discharge the former at the close of the week.

In this character the INSECT was introduced; and such was his dress, address, knowledge of the technical terms, and every executive branch of the art, that the highest opinion was entertained of his merit in the profession he had assumed; for the carrying a purpose of which not the least thought was harboured, by those who were destined to be duped by his fallacy.

He continued near a month in the exercise of his assumed profession, to the several duties of which he paid unremitting attention, in order to evade suspicion, and afford the Major an opportunity for carrying the design into execution.

The Major now visited his niece more frequently than ever, expressed great satisfaction at the progress the young lady made in the several polite accomplishments, and had convenient opportunities of making impressions on Mademoiselle, in his favour. The friend likewise listened with attention to the whispers and insinuations of the INSECT, and there seemed little doubt of her being disposed to compliance.

But unfortunately for the gallants, just as their plan seemed ripe for execution, a discovery was made that frustrated the whole design.

It happened that the mother of one of the young ladies, on a visit to her daughter, recognized the INSECT, and addressed him by his real name, a circumstance that gave great alarm, raised much suspicion, and led to many enquiries. The gallants, desirous of avoiding an eclairsissement at that time, made their exit abruptly. The INSECT, however, kept up an epistolary correspondence with his Dulcinea, the friend of Mademoiselle; for some time, till the lady leaving the school, it was supposed she had fallen a victim to her own credulity; and especially, as in the course of nine months, she retired to a convent at St. Omer's. Thus ended this affair.

The next boarding school frolic (if so it may be called) practised by our heroes, was much more considerable than the former, and deserves to be held up to public view, with the utmost detestation.

Mrs. B——r, a celebrated beauty of the frail sisterhood, who lodged at a boarding school not far from Norton street, Tottenham Court road, being acquainted with the Major and INSECT, from their moving in the gayer circles, used to send them frequent invitations to her table, which was sumptuous and elegant.

A large party being present on the occasion of celebrating the anniversary of her nativity; the INSECT, Major, and two or three other blades, elated by the choicest wines, full of glee, and disposed for frolic, went down stairs, as they pretended, to survey the school room and its appurtenances.

Observing the young ladies work bags fixed on hooks in different parts of the wainscot; it was proposed by the abandoned fraternity, that each should write an impromptu of obscene purport, and drop them into the bags, and they were unanimous for carrying the detestable plan into execution. The young ladies, who were from twelve to eighteen years of age, by the blushes visible in their lovely countenances,

countenances, appeared to understand too well, and to be much shocked by the flagitious scroll.

Some of them took the vile productions home, and presented them for perusal to their parents, who reproached the mistress as keeping a nursery for vice, instead of a seminary for virtue, with assurance, that their daughters never should return.

The affair at length becoming rather public, the scholars were mostly withdrawn. Upon a comparative view, some of the manuscripts bore a similarity to those of the Major and INSECT; but as no proof could be adduced, the mistress sat down with the loss of her scholars.

The conduct of this lady subjects her to the severest reprehension, and it produced the effects it justly deserved.

It was certainly the height of imprudence in her, to entertain as an inmate, a woman of Mrs. B——n's known levity of character, which was liable to taint the morals of unexperienced youth, through force of pernicious and corrupt example.

The last frolic we shall mention as practised by these heroes, was of a nature different

rent from either of the former. The Major and INSECT being on a shooting party at Gravesend; Lord D——'s gamekeeper had orders to point out to them those parts of the manor which were kept as reserves, in order to prevent their trespassing.

Like mankind in general, naturally desirous of what is prohibited, and finding a strong inclination for treading on forbidden ground, in order to get rid of their conductor, with whose direction they wished to dispense, they had recourse to the following experiment.

The INSECT loaded his fowling-piece with powder only, and walking by the side of the gamekeeper, discharged it as if by accident. The Major affecting a violent burst of passion, swore, that either he or the INSECT should decline the sport, as it endangered life; adding, that three or four persons had been already maimed, through his negligence and unskilfulness.

The affrighted game-keeper, dreading a similar fate, pointed out with his hand, the route through which they were to pass, took to his heels to recount the accident that had befallen him, and left our heroes to pursue their own track without controul.

Other

Other adventures might here be related, but these will suffice to shew, to what ridiculous, censurable, nay execrable conduct, men may be impelled through folly and vice, wholly unrestrained by reason and virtue.

Such beings have their frantic intervals, which are sometimes as injurious to mankind, as the ungovernable fallies of raving lunacy, and should therefore be liable to the same check in their wild and wanton career.

For some of their frolics, our bucks and bloods as they are called, might be consigned to a temporary station at the hempen block; and if to the most atrocious, due punishment was annexed, it would certainly tend to the security of the persons and property of the community at large.

The more elevated our stations in life, the more odium we incur from a violation of its duties; and if persons in general would attend duly to the characteristicks of the gentleman, they would act more consistently with the profession of it.

The INSECT, during his residence in St. Alban's Street, pursued his pleasures with unrestrained indulgence, and his inclination to all the excesses of libertinism became more predominant than ever.

His associates were the attendants or dependants on persons of the first rank and fashion; who, aping their luxurious and sumptuous mode of living, led him into such extravagances as nearly exhausted the supply of cash he had lately received from his father. This however was a circumstance at which he did not repine, as he was amused by many of his visitors who had considerable influence at Carlton House, with promises of being introduced to the Prince.

The taste and judgment of his Royal Highness, as well as the protection and patronage he affords the Arts and Sciences being well known, and the performances of the INSECT now in greater estimation than ever, he was induced to found his expectations of advancement in life solely on his musical talents, and therefore practised with the utmost assiduity, in order to prepare himself for exhibiting a specimen of his skill as a professor.

But his Highness's residence in town at this season being merely occasional, and of short duration, the INSECT thought it expedient to repair to Brighton, and though doubts arose in his mind concerning his introduction, and the degree of estimation in which he should be held there, he had the satisfaction of being frequently noticed on the pavillion. He was

was accompanied to this place of fashionable resort by the witty Mrs. L——n, (a lady well known by that appellation) whose vocal powers are confessedly great. She had been unfortunately abandoned by her late keeper, and having too much pride and too refined sentiments to bestow her favours on the public, waited with philosophical patience till a friend should present himself, having a competence to afford every necessary. The following outlines of this lady's life it is presumed may be acceptable to the *beau-monde*.

Mrs. L——n is descended from parents opulent and respectable. Her mother dying when she was young, she was left to the care of her father, who treated her with most paternal tenderness, and gave her a liberal and refined education. Her father in a few years following her mother, she was introduced, as mistress of all those accomplishments that graced a woman of fashion, at too early a period of life into the gayer circles. Naturally volatile and facetious, she attracted the admiration of the men, who paid her every attention, but incurred the dislike and censure of her own sex from her levity and boldness. Her cousin, a female whose depravity and inconstancy of disposition corresponded with her own, was her constant companion.

Her

Her friends, during the life of her father, had declined their visits on account of a *faux pas* in private, and many instances of improper behaviour in public, so that on his demise, she was left together with her cousin to the wide world. He bequeathed his daughter, however, an independency, and his niece a handsome legacy. Thus at large the two young ladies soon entered into engagements with men of fashion, many of whom waited with impatience, opportunity of offering them their protection, and wrendering them appendages to their rank by making them their mistresses.

One instance of prudence and discretion however entitles them to general approbation. This is a resolution they formed and punctually adhered to, of not breaking into the principal bequeathed to them by the old gentleman, and it was a circumstance that frequently consoled them under disagreeable consequences, which resulted from improprieties of conduct in divers instances. The cousin entered into the marriage state with the keeper of a lottery office, and is happy in the possession of a property competent to the comforts and real enjoyments of life. Mrs. L —, after sharing the bed of Lord G — r, Duke of Q — y, Lord F — g, Charles W — m, and other high born blades, fell at length to the lot of the INSECT.

Neither

Neither his person nor his fortune could be supposed objects of temptation, but his giddy, gay, diverting, and when opportunity offered, sentimental turn, added to the powerful attraction of his musical talents, ingratiated him with the lady and obtained him a participation of her charms. Indeed he experienced many instances of her generosity, in contributing towards the defraying of extraordinary expences to which a connection with a woman of her fashion must unavoidably subject him, as well as frequently presenting him with little curiosities.

Notwithstanding the prevailing qualities of wit, beauty, and fortune, which it is natural to suppose would have rendered his present situation equally convenient and agreeable; such were the volability, inconstancy, and it may be added, infatuation of our Hero, that he soon quitted Mrs. L——n, for the discarded mistress of his friend the attorney, Lucy J——e, with whom he cohabited a few months, after which, during his residence in St. Alban's street, Leicester square, and Dean street, Soho, he had a new mistress every month or six weeks. An evident proof that all his happiness, if so it may be called, centered in a variety, though nothing can be more repugnant to real content and enjoyment, than the perpetual hurry of a life of inconstancy and dissipation.

As

As our hero loved fun, and was a professed advocate for boundless indulgence in whim and frolic; this perpetual shifting of the scene might probably afford him much temporary amusement, by introducing incidents that gratified his inclination, and were agreeable to his turn of mind. Perhaps reproaches for inconstancy might please his vanity, in suggesting to his fancy, the prevalence of his attractions over the female heart. To this the jealousy of his ladies might not a little contribute, especially when it impelled them to crimson a fair face, derange an elegant feature, assume the posture, and adopt the language of what is emphatically termed the Billingsgate, and all for the love, the ardent, the inflexible affection they bear their Adonis, for whom, and whom only they live, and for whom, and whom only they are determined to die, rather than yield him up to the embraces of a rival.

Change of mistresses, introducing change of scenes, it is not to be doubted was consonant to the wishes of our hero.

These are the outlines of a character singularly *outré*, from which it is presumed some persons may not only derive entertainment, but others benefit and advantage, as it is delineated not with a view to inflame the passions, but by exposing the dangerous and frequently fatal

fatal tendency of incardinate indulgence, bring them under the guidance of reason and virtue. We wish not to palliate excesses of folly, much less of vice; while we urge in behalf of the subject of these Memoirs, some incidental causes, which though they influenced his conduct in a prevailing degree, cannot with truth and justice be said to originate from him.

We have already pointed out from indisputable authority, his mother's want of natural affection, and its attendant severities, not to say cruelties, as the original source of his launching into those extremes which brought on the train of consequences we have related.

To his young mind, scenes of folly were a pleasing aspect, and to sooth parental rigour, he was too frequently induced to have recourse to injurious and unjustifiable means. Want of employ has proved fatal to many, and perhaps the extreme indulgence of a father may have as much contributed to the eccentric conduct of the INSECT, as the extreme severity of a mother.

He has unfortunately, ~~been~~ not only to effect a reconciliation, but even to gain her good wishes. Strange! that a deviation in point of religious profession, a turn of mind too gay, or a taste too refined, should efface the impressions of nature, render the mind
unsus-

unfufceptible of its dictates, and fteel the heart againft its moft pointed affaults. It is much to be feared, that in the inftance before us, avarice, unconquerable paffion, precludes the feelings of humanity; and that to engrofs the accumulated wealth of the father, the mother aggravates the follies of their children into vice, and their indiscretions into crimes, to work him to a degree of apathy fimilar to that which environs her own impenetrable bofom.

It is however to be hoped that natural affection will affume its reign ere it be too late, and that the unfeeling mind will relent, before diffolution fhall confign the poffeffor either to oblivion, or to remembrance, painful in the extreme.

We have only to obferve, that the fubject of thefe Memoirs, having paffed, though at an early age, through almoft every fcene of life; and finding too late the ills attendant on illicit pleasures, feems difpofed to retire to Italy, and there refide fome years to make further improvement in mufic, his darlingfcience, in ~~the mean time~~ ^{on his return}, with reputation and advantage, retrieve his character; and render himfelf a refpectable member of Society.

FINIS.

